

rained fire on Manhattan and the Pentagon reminded us that Americans have a duty to defend that freedom which puts our country in a class by itself.

This is a lesson I learned long ago as the daughter of an Army captain, who served during the Vietnam war, and as a granddaughter of another captain who served during World War II.

Growing up in a suburb of Washington, D.C., I had ample opportunity to marvel at the workings of our government. I gazed upon the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution on display at the National Archives. I witnessed debates in the Senate chamber, I attended oral arguments at the Supreme Court. My direct observations showed me how well our democracy functions.

Having seen firsthand what life is like elsewhere, I have been convinced for years that despite its faults America is the greatest country in the world. Episodes such as being shaken down by police in Eastern Europe soon after the fall of the Iron Curtain made me realize how exceptional it is to have law enforcement that is largely corruption-free.

Being ignored or elbowed aside in Asian countries because I am a woman made me appreciate how much America values all its citizens, not just a select few from an anointed demographic group. Seeing the nervous reaction of a guide when I asked him a question about his government's repressive policies made me understand how precious our political freedom is.

Life in America is not perfect. But for the bulk of Americans, it is better here than it would be anywhere else.

And now I know I am not alone in my pride for my country. Patriotism is in fashion. "United we stand" is the slogan of the moment. There is a renewed understanding that freedom doesn't come for free; it must be zealously guarded from those who would try to take it away. For people like me who truly love America, this is our moment in the sun.

It's ironic: An action designed to terrorize Americans by demolishing our national symbols, because enemies think we're weak and soft, has instead reawakened our slumbering belief in this country's goodness. Whatever our differences were before Sept. 11, Americans have closed ranks to defend ourselves against an insidious danger that exploits freedom in order to destroy it.

So despite, or perhaps because of, the events of Sept. 11, this is a great time to be an American. Why? Because now everybody else realizes how great it is to be an American.

IN HONOR OF DEPUTY CHIEF OF
POLICE PATRICK M. MINUTILLO

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 25, 2002

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Deputy Chief of Police Patrick M. Minutillo on his retirement from the Harrison Police Department after 29 years of serving and protecting the public. He will be recognized Friday, January 25, at a celebration at Ravello's Restaurant in East Hanover, New Jersey.

After serving four years with the United States Navy, Deputy Chief Patrick Minutillo began his law enforcement career. He climbed quickly through the ranks to become Deputy Chief of the Harrison Police Department in 1997.

Currently, Deputy Chief Minutillo volunteers as an instructor in the West Point Command and Leadership Program, and serves as an Adjunct Professor at the Public Administration Institute of Fairleigh Dickinson University. An Administrative Hearing Officer, he also serves on both county and municipal levels in the State of New Jersey.

Deputy Chief Minutillo is active in numerous organizations, including the International Association of Chiefs of Police; the Deputy Chiefs of Police Association of New Jersey, where he served as President in 2000 and 2001; the FBI Law Enforcement Executive Development Association; the Italian American Police Society of New Jersey, where he serves as Executive Secretary; the International Police Association, where he holds the position of Vice-President; the American Society of Industrial Security, where he serves on the Law Enforcement Awards Committees; and the Harrison Police Association, Local 22.

Deputy Chief Minutillo holds a certificate in Public Management, Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice, and a Masters Degree in Administrative Science. He is a graduate of numerous executive level law enforcement programs, including the West Point Command and Leadership Program and the F.B.I. Law Enforcement Executive Development Seminar. In addition to his studies, he has completed over 2000 hours of advanced management and operational training.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Deputy Chief of Police Patrick M. Minutillo for 29 years of outstanding and dedicated service to the citizens of Harrison, New Jersey.

TRIBUTE TO JOSEPH "AJ" MINTON

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 25, 2002

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, today we rise to congratulate Milpitas Police Department Officer Joseph "AJ" Minton, the winner of the 2002 Gene Schwab Memorial Award. The Gene Schwab Memorial Award recognizes those city of Milpitas employees who put "Service Above Self."

Joseph "AJ" Minton was born in Anchorage, Alaska, and moved to California in 1983 to attend college, first at Monterey peninsula College and then San Jose State, where he obtained a Bachelor of Science degree in Administration of Justice. Mr. Minton began his career as a volunteer Police Explorer for the City of Marina, becoming a Reserve Police Officer and a volunteer Fire Fighter for that city in 1984. Upon moving to San Jose, he began working with the Milpitas Police Department as an intern and was hired full-time by the Department upon his graduation. He became a Police officer in 1989.

AJ Minton has spent most of his career in Patrol, but has served the Milpitas Police Department in innumerable other ways. As a crime Analyst, Mr. Minton provided valuable statistics to the community and to those looking to purchase a home and raise their families in Milpitas. He has also served as a Re-

serve Field Training Officer, a driver instructor, and as the agency representative for the county Report Writing Committee. Currently, he is a member of the Milpitas community Oriented Policing Task Force.

Throughout Mr. Minton's career, he has taken an interest in computer and information technology. In 1994, he assisted in implementing the department's first mobile computer system. Since 1999, he has been on a project team that works closely with the Information Services Department; additionally, he assisted with the development of the Computer Aided Dispatch, the Records Management System, and Mobile Computers.

Joseph "AJ" Minton is also an avid ice hockey player and is the beloved coach of the Blue Devil Ice hockey team, whose enthusiastic members range in age from four to eight. We wish to thank AJ Minton for his dedication to both the Milpitas Police Department and to the community; he truly embodies the spirit of "Service Above Self." We congratulate him on this honor and are grateful for his service.

IN HONOR OF BAYONNE FIRE
DIRECTOR PATRICK BOYLE

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 25, 2002

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Bayonne Fire Director Patrick Boyle, who will be recognized by Ireland's 32 Club at the 2002 annual dinner dance held on Friday, January 25th, at the Hi-Hat Club in Bayonne, NJ.

Fire Director Patrick Boyle served our country for six years as a United States Navy nuclear reactor operator on the USS *Nathaniel Greene*, a nuclear ballistic submarine. In 1978, Mr. Boyle was appointed to the Bayonne Fire Department. He was promoted to Lieutenant in 1989, Captain in 1996, and Battalion Chief in 1999. Mayor Joseph V. Doria, Jr., appointed him Fire Director in 1998, and Emergency Management Coordinator in 1999. Mr. Boyle has served as President and Vice-President of the Firemen's Mutual Benevolent Association (FMBA) Local 211, as well as Vice-President of FMBA Local 11. He is an Adjunct Professor in Business Law and Fire Science at New Jersey City University.

Mr. Boyle is a former Little League coach and manager; served two terms as President of the Bayonne Youth Hockey Association; served as a member of the Bayonne St. Patrick's Day parade committee; and is a member of Ireland's 32.

Fire Director Patrick Boyle, a native of Bayonne, graduated from New Jersey City University and Seton Hall Law School.

Mr. Boyle is happily married to the former Marie Mazzucola and is a proud father of two sons, Sean, a firefighter with the Bayonne Fire Department, and Ryan, a college student.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Mr. Patrick Boyle for over 20 years of dedicated service on behalf of the residents of Bayonne, NJ.